



US005790896A

77231

# United States Patent [19]

Nguyen

[11] Patent Number: 5,790,896  
[45] Date of Patent: Aug. 4, 1998

[54] APPARATUS FOR A TESTING SYSTEM WITH A PLURALITY OF FIRST CONNECTION HAVING A STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTIC AND A PLURALITY OF SECOND CONNECTION HAVING A DIFFERENT STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTIC THAN THE FIRST CONNECTION

5,121,482 6/1992 Patton ..... 395/836

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

061698867 6/1994 Japan .  
08222332 8/1996 Japan .  
08265937 10/1996 Japan .

[75] Inventor: John Thai Nguyen, Middletown, R.I.

[73] Assignee: The United States of America as represented by the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C.

Primary Examiner—Thomas C. Lee

Assistant Examiner—Po C. Huang

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Michael J. McGowan; William F. Eipert; Prithvi C. Lall

[21] Appl. No.: 682,902

[22] Filed: Jun. 24, 1996

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... G06F 13/00

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 395/892; 395/500; 395/821; 395/882; 395/893; 439/49; 439/169; 439/177; 439/491

[58] Field of Search ..... 395/836, 500, 395/821, 882, 892, 893; 380/3; 439/49, 169, 177, 491

## [56] References Cited

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,972,470 11/1990 Farago ..... 380/3

## [57] ABSTRACT

An input/output module in a system for testing the functionality of an electronic system. The input/output module includes a plurality of input connections for receiving signals from the electronic system and a number of output connectors with different structural characteristics adapted for mating with plugs of correspondingly different structural characteristics to direct signals to another component of the testing system. For example the input/output module can include a plurality of BNC type plugs for signals of a first type and TNC type plugs for signals of a second type. This arrangement inhibits unintended cross connections between specific output connectors.

20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

